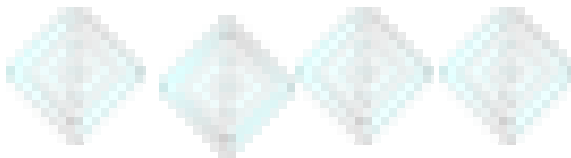




# FEMALE NEW COMMITMENT PROFILE: FY2001



**A report on the females committed to Arizona's  
Juvenile Corrections System  
Fiscal Year 2001.**



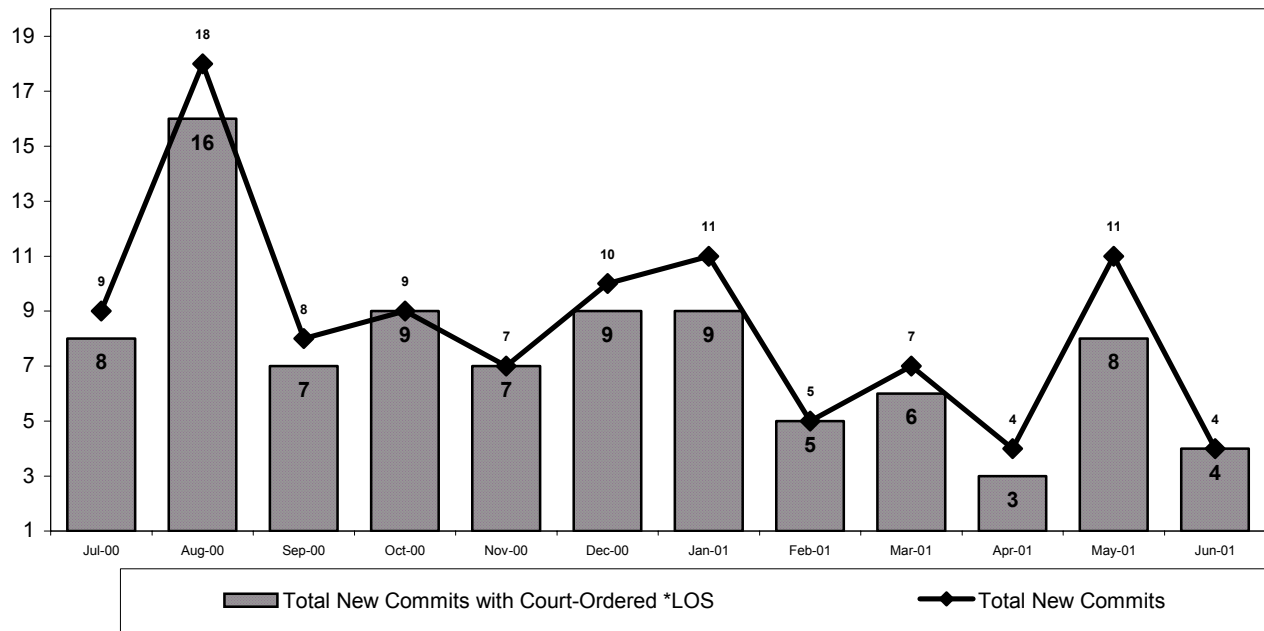
## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections Female New Commitment Profile is a report on the females committed to Arizona's juvenile corrections system throughout Fiscal Year 2001. The Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections (ADJC) Research and Development Section (R/D) prepared this report. It presents quantitative information on the demographic, commitment offenses and needs of the female juveniles committed to ADJC. This report presents the results of the collection and analysis of data from Arizona juvenile court commitment orders, ADJC's YouthBase, as well as other files maintained by R/D. Some of the major findings include:

- There were 103 females committed to ADJC in FY 2001, a decrease of 26.4% from the number of females committed in FY 2000. Overall, there were 893 juveniles committed to ADJC in FY 2001, a decrease of 9.5% from the 987 committed in FY 2000.
- The proportion of ADJC female juvenile new commitments decreased from 14.2% in FY 2000 to 11.5% in FY 2001.
- Almost all of the female juveniles in FY 2001 had Substance Abuse (99%), School Behavior (96.1%), and Theft Behavior (89.3%) needs.
- Maricopa County committed the highest percentage of females to ADJC in FY 2001 with 43.7% of the total, decreasing from 41.4% in FY 2000.
- Monthly new commitments averaged 9 per month, with a high of 18 in August 2000, and a low of 4 in April and June 2001.
- Almost half (45.6%) of the female new commitments were committed on a property offense.
- Most (88.3%) of the female new commitments were not attending school or they had severe problems with school prior to being committed to ADJC.

This report describes relevant commitment information, followed by more specific data tables and graphs.

**Figure 1: Monthly ADJC Female New Commitments  
Fiscal Year 2001**



\*LOS = Length of Stay

### ADJC Female Juvenile Profile

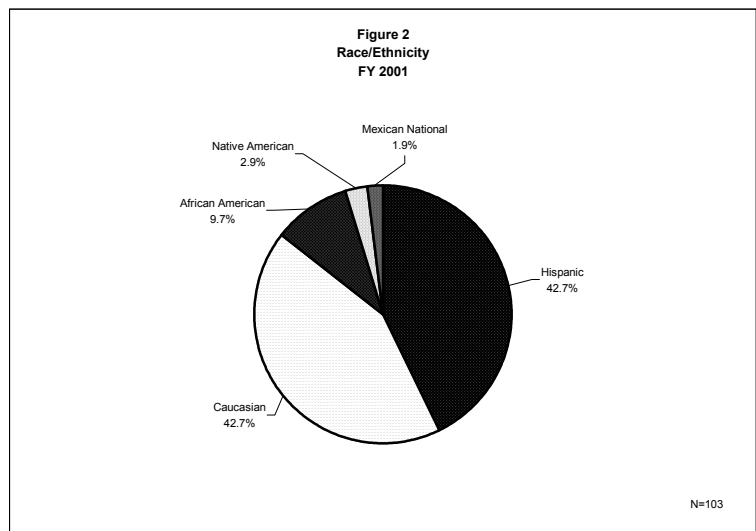
Analysis of data and trends enabled ADJC to develop a meaningful profile of juveniles committed into its custody. A typical female new commitment to ADJC was:

a 16 year-old Caucasian or Hispanic female from Maricopa County. Her most serious commitment offense was a misdemeanor and was most likely a property offense. She was committed to ADJC with a court-ordered length of stay of 6.6 months and she was determined to have a moderate risk to re-offend. Her placement according to both ADJC matrix and court-ordered minimum was in a secure facility.

**ADJC Female New Commitment Demographic Profiles**  
**Fiscal Years 1998 through 2001**

	<b>FY 1998</b>	<b>FY 1999</b>	<b>FY 2000</b>	<b>FY 2001</b>
<b>Race</b>				
Caucasian	60 (36.6%)	67 (48.9%)	59 (42.1%)	44 (42.7%)
African American	14 (8.5%)	9 (6.6%)	14 (10.0%)	10 (9.7%)
Native American	13 (7.9%)	7 (5.1%)	8 (5.7%)	3 (2.9%)
Hispanic	69 (42.1%)	48 (35.0%)	53 (37.9%)	44 (42.7%)
Asian	5 (3.0%)	2 (1.5%)	-	-
Other	-	-	1 (0.7%)	-
Mexican National	3 (1.8%)	4 (2.9%)	5 (3.6%)	2 (1.9%)
<b>Age</b>				
11 and younger	-	1 (0.7%)	-	-
12 years old	-	2 (1.5%)	-	-
13 years old	3 (1.8%)	7 (5.1%)	10 (7.1%)	6 (5.8%)
14 years old	27 (16.5%)	24 (17.5%)	26 (18.6%)	20 (19.4%)
15 years old	51 (31.1%)	36 (26.3%)	35 (25.0%)	26 (25.2%)
16 years old	46 (28.0%)	41 (29.9%)	30 (21.4%)	28 (27.2%)
17 years old	37 (22.6%)	26 (19.0%)	39 (27.9%)	23 (22.3%)
<b>Average Age</b>	15.5 years old	15.3 years old	15.4 years old	15.4 years old
<b>Risk Level</b>				
Low	32 (19.5%)	23 (16.8%)	32 (22.9%)	23 (22.3%)
Moderate	87 (53.0%)	80 (58.4%)	76 (54.3%)	62 (60.2%)
High	45 (27.4%)	34 (24.8%)	32 (22.9%)	18 (17.5%)
<b>County</b>				
Maricopa	84 (51.2%)	51 (37.2%)	58 (41.4%)	45 (43.7%)
Pinal	8 (4.9%)	5 (3.6%)	10 (7.1%)	5 (4.9%)
Pima	42 (25.6%)	39 (28.5%)	40 (28.6%)	27 (26.2%)
Greenlee	-	-	-	-
Graham	-	3 (2.2%)	1 (0.7%)	-
Yuma	10 (6.1%)	11 (8.0%)	6 (4.3%)	9 (8.7%)
La Paz	-	-	-	-
Mohave	9 (5.5%)	11 (8.0%)	7 (5.0%)	7 (6.8%)
Yavapai	3 (1.8%)	5 (3.6%)	4 (2.9%)	3 (2.9%)
Navajo	1 (0.6%)	-	6 (4.3%)	1 (1.0%)
Apache	-	2 (1.5%)	1 (0.7%)	-
Gila	2 (1.2%)	5 (3.6%)	2 (1.4%)	1 (1.0%)
Coconino	2 (1.2%)	1 (0.7%)	2 (1.4%)	3 (2.9%)
Santa Cruz	-	-	-	1 (1.0%)
Cochise	3 (1.8%)	4 (2.9%)	3 (2.1%)	1 (1.0%)
<b>TOTALS</b>	164 (100%)	137 (100%)	140 (100%)	103 (100%)

Both Hispanic and Caucasian females accounted for 42.7% each of the new commitments. African Americans (9.7%), Native Americans (2.9%), and Mexican Nationals (1.9%) combined, accounted for less than one-fifth of the total new



commitments. There were no new commitments in any other ethnic categories.

Over one-half (52.4%) of the female new commitments were 15 or 16 years old at the time of commitment. A large percentage (22.3%) were 17 years old, followed by 14 year olds (19.4%), and 13 year olds (5.8%).

Over one-half (60.0%) of the female new commitments were determined to have a moderate risk to re-offend. Females with a low risk to re-offend represented 22.3%, and females with a high risk to re-offend represented 17.5% of the total.

Maricopa County committed the highest percentage of females to ADJC in FY 2001 with 43.7% of the total, decreasing from 41.4% in FY 2000.

**ADJC Female New Commitment Delinquency Profiles  
Fiscal Year 2001**

Group Total	Female (103 Juveniles)		Male (790 Juveniles)	
<b>Age at First Juvenile Referral</b>				
7 years and younger		-	1	(0.1%)
8-10 years old	8	(7.8%)	153	(19.4%)
11 years old	12	(11.7%)	104	(13.2%)
12 years old	27	(26.2%)	132	(16.7%)
13 years old	24	(23.3%)	164	(20.8%)
14 years old	17	(16.5%)	121	(15.3%)
15 or older	15	(14.6%)	115	(14.6%)
<b>Number of Prior Court Referrals</b>				
1 referral	1	(1.0%)	17	(2.2%)
2 referrals	1	(1.0%)	19	(2.4%)
3 to 5 referrals	15	(14.6%)	75	(9.5%)
6 to 10 referrals	37	(35.9%)	315	(39.9%)
11 to 15 referrals	29	(28.2%)	226	(28.6%)
16 or more referrals	20	(19.4%)	138	(17.5%)
<b>Petitions for Felony Offenses</b>				
0 petitions	30	(29.1%)	71	(9.0%)
1 petition	30	(29.1%)	222	(28.0%)
2 petitions	19	(18.5%)	232	(29.4%)
3 petitions	10	(9.7%)	179	(22.7%)
4 petitions	6	(5.8%)	54	(6.8%)
5 & more petitions	8	(7.8%)	32	(4.1%)
<b>Number of Adjudications</b>				
1 adjudication	6	(5.8%)	41	(5.2%)
2-3 adjudications	16	(15.5%)	164	(20.8%)
4-5 adjudications	43	(41.8%)	273	(34.6%)
6-7 adjudications	24	(23.3%)	189	(23.9%)
8 or more adjudications	14	(13.6%)	123	(15.6%)

**ADJC Female New Commitment Delinquency Profiles  
Fiscal Year 2001**

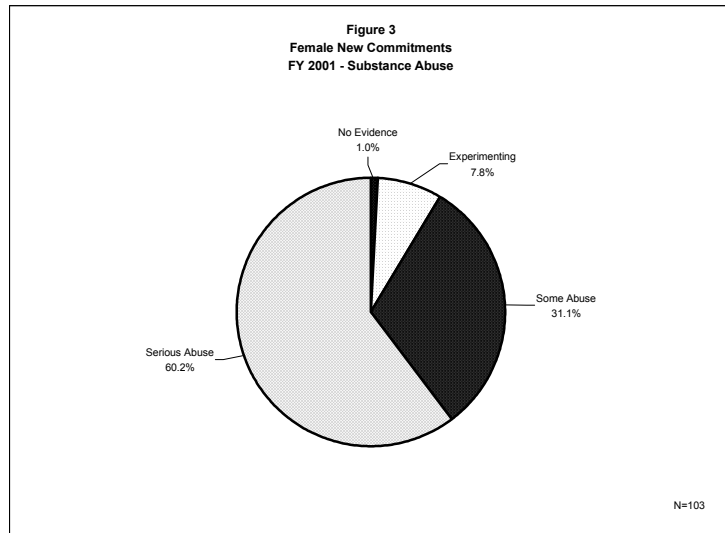
<b>Group Total</b>		<b>Female (103 Juveniles)</b>		<b>Male (790 Juveniles)</b>
Assaultive Offense	Less than 2	67	(65.0%)	644 (81.5%)
	2 or more	36	(35.0%)	146 (18.5%)
Property Offense	Less than 3	97	(94.2%)	486 (61.5%)
	3 or more	6	(5.8%)	304 (38.5%)
Drug Offense	Less than 2	87	(84.5%)	638 (80.8%)
	2 or more	16	(15.5%)	152 (19.2%)
Weapons Offense	No	90	(87.4%)	664 (84.1%)
	Yes	13	(12.6%)	126 (15.9%)
Affiliated w/Gang	No	73	(70.9%)	394 (49.9%)
	Yes	30	(29.1%)	396 (50.1%)
Known Use Alcohol & Drug	No Evidence	1	(1.0%)	22 (2.8%)
	Experimenting	8	(7.8%)	33 (4.2%)
	Some Abuse	32	(31.1%)	137 (17.3%)
	Serious Abuse	62	(60.2%)	598 (75.7%)
Attend School w/o Truant Behavior Problems	No Problem	2	(1.9%)	22 (2.8%)
	Some Problem	10	(9.7%)	45 (5.7%)
	Severe Problem	50	(48.5%)	227 (28.7%)
	No School	41	(39.8%)	496 (62.8%)

Over one-half (60.2%) of the female new commitments were serious abusers of alcohol and drugs, and 39.8% were not attending school. Almost half (48.5%) were having severe problems at school.

Almost one-third (29.1%) of the female new commitments had gang affiliations; 94.2%

had less than three property offenses and 65% had less than two assaultive offenses. Approximately one-fifth (15.5%) had two or more drug offenses, and 12.6% had a weapons offense in their background.

Many (83.5%) female juveniles had six or more referrals at the time of commitment to ADJC. Approximately three quarters (76.7%) of the females had two or fewer petitions for felony offenses. More than three quarters (78.6%) of the females had four or more adjudications. Twelve (26.2%) was the most common age of first referral for females, however, 54.4% were 13 or older at their first referral and approximately one fifth (19.5%) were 11 or younger.





**ADJC Female New Commitment Offense Subgroups**  
**Fiscal Years 1998 through 2001**

Committing Offense	FY 1998	FY 1999	FY 2000	FY 2001
Drug Offenses	28 (17.1%)	26 (19.0%)	26 (18.6%)	12 (11.7%)
Property Offenses	73 (44.5%)	46 (33.6%)	59 (42.1%)	47 (45.6%)
Crimes Against Persons	36 (22.0%)	31 (22.6%)	28 (20.0%)	27 (26.2%)
Weapons Offenses	1 (0.6%)	-	-	1 (1.0%)
Public Order Offenses	23 (14.0%)	30 (21.9%)	23 (16.4%)	12 (11.7%)
Other Offenses	3 (1.8%)	4 (2.9%)	4 (2.9%)	4 (3.9%)
Total	164 (100%)	137 (100%)	140 (100%)	103 (100%)

Over one-quarter (26.2%) of the female new commitments were committed in the crimes against persons category, increasing from 20.0% in FY 2000. The average length of stay for crimes against persons for female juveniles was 6.7 months (see table below).

Almost half (45.6%) of the new commitments were committed on property offenses. The average length of stay for property offenses for female juveniles was 6.9 months.

Females committed on drug offenses have decreased throughout the last three years, while the average length of stay for drug offenses have increased.

**Average Length of Sentences by Committing Offense**  
**Fiscal Years 1998 through 2001**

Committing Offense	FY 1998	FY 1999	FY 2000	FY 2001
Drug Offenses	5.5	5.9	6.2	6.3
Property Offenses	5.3	5.3	6.3	6.9
Crimes Against Persons	7.6	6.4	7.1	6.7
Weapons Offenses	5.0	-	-	6.0
Public Order Offenses	6.0	6.2	5.9	5.8
Other Offenses	3.7	3.5	8.0	5.3
Total	5.9	5.8	6.4	6.6

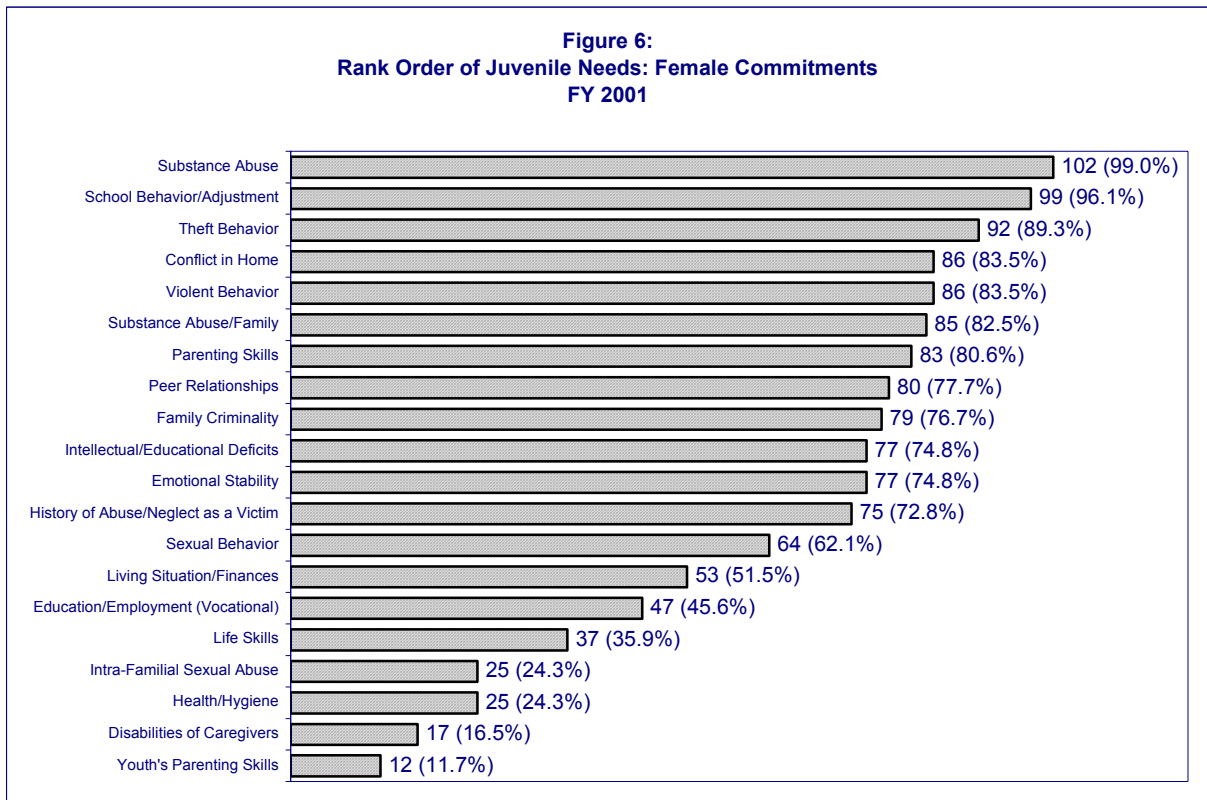
**ADJC Female New Commitment Needs Profile  
Fiscal Year 2001**

	<b>Female (103 Juveniles)</b>	<b>Male (786* Juveniles)</b>
<b>Treatment Service Factors</b>		
Substance Abuse	102 (99.0%)	769 (97.8%)
Sexual Behavior	64 (62.1%)	112 (14.2%)
Violent Behavior	86 (83.5%)	710 (90.3%)
Emotional Stability	77 (74.8%)	507 (64.5%)
Theft Behavior	92 (89.3%)	711 (90.5%)
<b>Education/Social Skills Factors</b>		
Life Skills	37 (35.9%)	276 (35.1%)
Youth's Parenting Skills	12 (11.7%)	44 (5.6%)
Education/Employment (Vocational)	47 (45.6%)	582 (74.0%)
Living Situation/Finances	53 (51.5%)	179 (22.8%)
Intellectual/Educational Deficits	77 (74.8%)	726 (92.4%)
Peer Relationships	80 (77.7%)	748 (95.2%)
School Behavior/Adjustment	99 (96.1%)	757 (96.3%)
<b>Medical &amp; Mental Health Factors</b>		
Health/Hygiene	25 (24.3%)	220 (28.0%)
History of Abuse/Neglect as a Victim	75 (72.8%)	275 (35.0%)
Intra-Familial Sexual Abuse	25 (24.3%)	56 (7.1%)
<b>Family Environment Factors</b>		
Conflict in Home	86 (83.5%)	415 (52.8%)
Parenting Skills	83 (80.6%)	393 (50.0%)
Substance Abuse/Family	85 (82.5%)	399 (50.8%)
Family Criminality	79 (76.7%)	426 (54.2%)
Disabilities of Caregivers	17 (16.5%)	72 (9.2%)

\*Four juveniles did not have a needs assessment completed before they were released.

A few gender-based differences were found in the needs of the juveniles including Sexual Behavior needs: females (62.1%), males (14.6%), Family Substance Abuse: females (82.5%), males (50.8%), and Peer Relationships: females (77.7%), males (95.2%).

## ADJC Female New Commitment Needs Profile Fiscal Year 2001



Many juveniles committed to AJDC have serious substance abuse, school behavior, emotional, and other needs. These needs affect the juveniles' ability to respond appropriately to ADJC treatment programs. Almost all of the female juveniles in FY 2001 had Substance Abuse (99%), School Behavior (96.1%), and Theft Behavior (89.3%) needs.

## CONCLUSIONS

*The Arizona Department of Juvenile Corrections Female New Commitment Profile* was a study of the female juveniles committed to Arizona's juvenile corrections system in FY 2001. As shown throughout this report the typical female new commitment to ADJC was as follows:

a 16 year-old Caucasian or Hispanic female from Maricopa County. Her most serious commitment offense was a misdemeanor and was most likely a property offense. She was committed to ADJC with a court-ordered length of stay of 6.6 months and she was determined to have a moderate risk to re-offend. Her placement according to both ADJC matrix and court-ordered minimum was in a secure facility.

- There were 103 females committed to ADJC in FY 2001, a decrease of 26.4% from the number of females committed in FY 2000. Overall, there were 893 juveniles committed to ADJC in FY 2001, a decrease of 9.5% from the 987 committed in FY 2000.
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